

# FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITIZENS SERVICES BUILDING

401 Sagner Ave.

Frederick, MD 21701

## **Minutes of the August 27, 2019 Meeting**

- I. The meeting was held at Winchester Hall, and called to order by Chair Mari Lee. An invitation was extended to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. The following members were present: Mari Lee, Lisa Clark, Annette Breiling, Francisco Alves, Lee Whisner, Georgette Hughes, Roger Sobkowiak, Desiree Tucker and Cindy Shubin. FPD Lt. Joe Hayer, Dana Falls Liaison from FCPS and guest Theresa Hennessy were present.
- III. Lt. Hayer reminded everyone that he had sent out a report for everyone to look over. The report is large and he will entertain questions at the next meeting.
- IV. Annette Breiling moved, and Roger Sobkowiak seconded, to approve the HRC's July 2019 meeting minutes. The vote in favor was unanimous.
- V. Executive Committee Report  
  
A brief summary of the Executive Committee meeting was given by Mari Lee.  
  
Annette Breiling reported there is \$4,606.03 available to the HRC.
- VI. Standing Committees  
  
CRC – The group will be meeting on Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup>. The time and location are yet to be determined.  
GRC – no report  
IRC – The committee is tasked with creating a Strategic Plan for the 2020 retreat.
- VII. Liaison reports - Dana Falls, Director of Student Services at FCPS attended the meeting and reported that there are approximately 800 homeless students

in Frederick County. SHIP had a summer program that 59 high school students attended and completed. They each earned a \$600 stipend. He will continue to attend and keep the HRC updated on topics related to the HRC.

VIII. Old Business

National Night Out was August 6, 2019, Paula Glasco and Lee Whisner were at Carrollton Park and Francisco Alvez and Georgette Hughes were at Hill Street Park. Annette Breiling was at Mullinix Park. Everyone reported that there were less people due to the rain but everyone had a good time.

IX. New Business

The target date for the Naturalization Ceremony will be October 17, 2019. Mari Lee has a person for the Keynote speaker.

The Asian American Center of Frederick's Community Health Fair will be held on October 26 at the Fairgrounds. The HRC will have a table at the fair grounds on that day. Annette Breiling and Cindy Shubin will man the table from 10 – 12 and Francisco Alves will be there from 12 – 2. Mari Lee will be in touch with members that were not present to see if they have availability.

X. Director's Report

Miles Ward explained that he had been directed to provide guidance to the HRC regarding several matters. He explained that the County Executive and the County Council recently announced that steps were being taken to review and discuss certain concerns with the 287 g program directly with the Sheriff. The HRC has no authority over the Sheriff's office, or over law enforcement generally. Under the County Code, the HRC is expected to address specific categories of discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. The HRC should also change the topic of its December Human Rights Day lunch (*"The Three Whites: White Privilege, White Supremacy, and White Nationalism"*), because the topic selected does not fall under the HRC's purview and is inflammatory.

Several members expressed their strong disagreement and contended that the HRC should have greater authority to investigate other matters. They said they believed the topic of the lunch program was appropriate. Several members asked Miles who had given him this direction, and if they could see the documents he had looked at while making his comments. He declined.

XI. Members who chose to do so made brief final comments.

XII. The meeting was adjourned.